

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:
  - a fixing device disposed on a transportation path, on which a sheet member having a non-fixed image formed thereon is transported, and having roller members for fixing the image with the application of heat to the non-fixed image;
  - an attaching/detaching device for freely attaching or detaching the fixing device to or from the main body of the image forming apparatus; and
  - a guide member provided in the main body of the image forming apparatus, for guiding the fixing device in a slidable manner;
  - the guide member including an inclined slope, on which the fixing device is placed to be guided slantwise upward, when the fixing device is attached to the image forming apparatus by the attaching/detaching device.
2. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image is formed on the sheet member on the transportation path, and further, the guide member guides the fixing device in a direction substantially perpendicular to the transportation path.
3. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the inclination angle of the slope in the guide

member is set at such an angle that the fixing device can slide by its own weight when the fixing device is withdrawn out of the main body of the image forming apparatus.

4. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the guide member includes a stopper for holding the fixing device at the time when the fixing device is moved to a terminal end of the slope.

5. An image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the fixing device includes a sliding portion which is brought into slide contact with the slope;

the slope has a recess for holding the sliding portion of the fixing device in temporary engagement; and the recess is formed on the way toward the inside of the main body of the image forming apparatus from the position of the stopper when the fixing device is disposed in the image forming apparatus.

6. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a conductive resilient member for grounding the fixing device via the main body of the image forming apparatus is disposed at the tip on a side on which the fixing device is inserted.

7. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a rotation input unit for transmitting rotating drive force to the roller members in the fixing device;

a rotation output unit provided in the main body of the image forming apparatus in such a manner as to be freely brought into contact with or separated from the rotation input unit in a freely oscillatable manner, for applying the rotating drive force to the rotation input unit in a state in contact with the rotation input unit; and

a pressing member for pressing the rotation output unit against the fixing device;

wherein the direction of the oscillating operation of the rotation output unit is set in substantially the same direction as that in which the fixing device is moved on the slope due to its own weight, such that the rotation output unit is connected to the rotation input unit in a secure contact therewith by pressing the rotation output unit against the fixing device by the pressing member.